

From: Katy Cannady [Katy_Cannady20@comcast.net]
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To: Darton, Terry
Subject: Permit for the Potomac River Generating Plant
Permit for the Potomac River Generating Plant

The permit proposed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality would allow the Mirant power plant to emit PM₂₅ into the surrounding area – Alexandria's residential neighborhoods—at a rate beyond the National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

Whatever was the DEQ thinking? Other states on the East Coast have established limits for PM₂₅ emissions. Why not Virginia? This is especially important in Northern Virginia which, as everyone knows, is a non-attainment area for clean air.

There are those who will argue that automobiles are the largest source of pollution in this area. That is so, but in Alexandria the Mirant power plant is the largest single source of air pollution. Therefore, cleaning up Mirant is the single most effective way to achieve desperately needed cleaner air.

Relief from the known health hazards of fine particulate matter would require one of two things. Either limit Mirant's operations so as to achieve a level of emissions complying with the ambient air quality standards or require the plant to install the modern internal cleaning systems that are available.

The DEQ's proposed permit mandates neither solution. It appears aimed at increasing the profitability of this already profitable operation. This permit if approved would over time allow Mirant to increase production without any investment in clean coal technology. We know that such technology exists. It's advertised on television. So why isn't the DEQ promoting its use where it's needed?

Once again our state government has failed us. To my mind the most basic role of government should be to protect the citizens from dangers that we as individuals cannot hope to overcome. In the 21st century that includes known hazards to our health, specifically our hearts and lungs from fine particulate matter. Withdraw this permit. Give the citizens of Alexandria one that protects us rather than one that protects Mirant's bottom line.

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